

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication, at page 7 of the Office Action, that the subject matter of Claims 25-27 contains allowable subject matter.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 1, 3, 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,491,847 to Huber et al. (Huber'847).

In the Office Action, beginning at page 4, Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber'847 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,885,246 to Ford (Ford'246).

Summary of Response to Office Action

In Response to the April 11, 2008 Office Action, Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 4, 5, and 26. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, 18-21, 23, 26, and 28 are currently pending with claims 8, 15, 17, 22, 24, 25, and 27 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 26 are the only pending independent claims.

All Claims Are Allowable

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, 18-21, 23 and 28 in this application are rejected under various provisions of U.S. law. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable for the specific reasons set forth below, and therefore requests issuance of this application.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 1, 3, 12, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber'847. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 27. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 3, 12, and 28 which depend from claim 1 should all be in immediate form for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 12, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 4, claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as reciting subject matter that is allegedly obvious, and therefore allegedly unpatentable, over the disclosure of Huber'847 in view of the disclosure of Ford'246. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and Applicant requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 27. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 9, 12, 16, 19, and 23 which depend from claim 1 should all be in immediate form for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to include the allowable features of claims 1 and 25. Therefore, claim 4 and its dependent claims 2, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, and 21 should all be in immediate form for allowance.

Claim 5 has been amended to include certain of the allowable features of claims 1 and 27. Therefore, claim 5 and its dependent claims 6 and 10 should all be in immediate form for allowance.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 26 has been amended to be in independent format. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 26 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account listed on Applicant's initial application filing transmittal document.

Respectfully submitted,
Cermak Kenealy & Vaidya LLP

By  /djk/
David J. Kenealy
Registration No. 40,411

U.S.P.T.O. Customer Number 39083
Cermak Kenealy & Vaidya LLP
515 E. Braddock Rd., Suite B
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703.778.6610 (v)
703.652.5101 (f)

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